

REMARKS

Claims 23-28 were examined. Claims 23 and 26 are amended. Claims 23-28 remain in the Application.

The Patent Office rejects claims 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,870,483 of Nishigaki et al. (Nishigaki). According to the Patent Office, Nishigaki teaches modifying a light receiving area of diodes or alternate pixels by the use of one or more light shields as described in col. 4, lines 11-21. The light shields described in the referenced text refer to a light shielding width between sensor parts 11A, 11B, and 11C.

Independent claim 23 is not anticipated by Nishigaki, because Nishigaki does not describe modifying a light receiving area of a first photodiode from a second photodiode by the use of one or more light shields formed on at least a different layer of a sensor substrate than the photodiode. Nishigaki does not describe how its sensor parts or light-shielding widths are formed.

Claims 24-25 depend from claim 23 and therefore contain all the limitations of that claim. For at least the reasons stated with respect to claim 23, claims 24-25 are not anticipated by Nishigaki.

Independent claim 26 is not anticipated by Nishigaki, because Nishigaki does not describe modifying a light receiving area of alternate pixels by the use of one or more light shields formed on at least a different layer of a sensor substrate than a plurality of pixels. As noted above, Nishigaki does not describe how its sensor parts or light-shielding widths are formed.

Claims 27-28 depend from claim 26 and therefore contain all the limitations of that claim. For at least the reasons stated with respect to claim 26, claims 27-28 are not anticipated by Nishigaki.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10/27/04

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10/27/04
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